FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 JANUARY 1984

Lebanon

Political Developments — Foreign Minister Elie Salim, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal began discussions in Riyad on 8 January on ways to promote the Lebanese security plan and revive the national reconciliation process, Damascus radio and AFP announced. Salim told AFP that he was not optimistic and that the talks were taking place in "difficult circumstances," but the agency cited Khaddam as voicing optimism and asserting that "the peace plan could be agreed as early as" 9 January.

In an interview broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt stated that while the three foreign ministers would discuss the current situation, the Lebanese-Israeli 17 May agreement is an issue that the PSP and the participants "cannot penetrate." Junblatt said that the security plan will stop fighting and armed clashes among the various factions but that it "does not remove the basic political differences" between the opposition and the regime. Junblatt said the Lebanese Army's presence in the mountain areas is "absolutely rejected," adding that the Army should be used only "after a comprehensive Lebanese political solution has been found."

Junblatt informed the radio that the government's Security Committee failed to attend a 7 January meeting in Damascus to discuss the security plan for Beirut and the mountain region and stated that he considers this development "an escalation of the situation by the Lebanese Government." However, the Damascus meeting was attended by representatives of the Lebanese Army, the Lebanese Front, the PSP, the Amal Movement, and the Saudi mediator, the radio added, though Junblatt and Amal leader Nabih Birri did not personally participate. Nevertheless, Birri announced that the meeting had drafted a "final formula" for the security plan which he said did not differ from the plan negotiated earlier, according to Beirut radio.

Israeli Position — Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor stated on Jerusalem radio that Israel's position on Lebanon is based on the 17 May agreement and that "there is no truth" to reports that Israel's position on withdrawal or redeployment has changed. During a Cabinet session on 8 January, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reiterated that Israel will withdraw only when the Syrian forces depart, the radio added. Nevertheless, security sources cited by Jerusalem radio asserted that "Israel does not necessarily have to wait for the Syrians to leave Lebanon."

Military Developments — A U.S. Marine was killed and two others were wounded when two RPG rounds were fired at a helicopter landing in Beirut on 8 January, Beirut radio announced. In other developments, the radio noted clashes around Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb, elsewhere in the mountain region, and Khaldah on 7 and 8 January. In the north, Lebanese security forces in Tripoli took up buffer positions between combatants following exchanges of rocket and heavy machine gun fire on 6 January, according to the radio, which also reported that two Israeli tanks opened "indiscriminate" fire on vehicles parked in Sidon. Military sources cited by Jerusalem radio denied the latter report, although the radio did note that an IDF patrol had fired into an illegally parked vehicle in the city which they suspected was booby trapped, speculating that this may have sparked rumors that Israeli forces had "shot up" dozens of civilian vehicles.

In another development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Iranian command in Ba'labakk agreed to move its forces and munitions to locations "far from residential areas" following "steady pressures and contacts" in this regard.

Jordan

The House of Representatives and Senate approved the amendment to Article 73 of the Constitution in an extraordinary session of Parliament on 9 January, Amman radio reported. Earlier, *AR-RA'Y* published the text of the amendment, which permits the king to recall the dissolved Parliament in an ordinary session and to order general elections in the East Bank districts. The elected members will themselves elect not more than half the members from the West Bank, where elections cannot be held, and both groups will together elect the final group of West Bank deputies.

The extraordinary session of Parliament will be followed by an ordinary session, and this means that a cabinet change is likely, the daily *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* disclosed.

In Damascus, the joint command of the PFLP and DFLP denounced King Husayn's "new maneuver" in recalling Parliament and called on Palestinians and Jordanians to "deter the capitulatory design," according to Damascus radio.

PLO Affairs

The Fatah Revolutionary Council will meet in Tunis on 9 January to prepare for the forthcoming Fatah general congress and to discuss the "implications and repercussions" of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan stated in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo and AFP. Meanwhile, the PLO Executive Committee held a meeting in Tunis on 7 January attended by nine of its members: 'Arafat, three other Fatah representatives, one from the Arab Liberation Front, and four independents, according to "informed" Palestinian sources cited by the radio. Although representatives of the PFLP, DFLP, PFLP-GC, and As-Sa'iqah boycotted the meeting, the presence of nine members was sufficient for a quorum, the radio said. The earlier meeting of Executive Committee members on 5-6 January was "unofficial" because there was no quorum as a result of the delayed arrival of one of the independent representatives, the radio noted.

In Damascus, the "Palestinian command" opposed to 'Arafat denounced the PLO Executive Committee meeting as "illegal" in view of the absence of "all" the resistance faction representatives and also condemned the Fatah Central Committee's stand as a "cover for 'Arafat's step and his deviations," Damascus radio reported. The statement was issued by Fatah dissident leaders Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha and Nimr Salih, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, several PLO Executive Committee members, and the leaders of As-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-GC, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front.

Libya's Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, in a speech at a rally in Damascus reported by Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, described the leadership of the "new Fatah revolutionary movement" as the legitimate leadership of Fatah and he called on "misguided" cadres to join the uprising. Jallud's presence in Damascus was linked to attempts to form a "revolutionary liberation organization" with Syrian and Libyan support, according to a Palestinian source cited by Kuwait's *AL-ANBA'*.

Yasir 'Arafat told the London magazine *AL-MAJALLAH* that he intends to visit Egypt again, "whenever the circumstances are suitable," adding that he will not yield to "pressure or blackmail." In remarks to Jordanian journalists reported by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, 'Arafat revealed that he also plans to visit Jordan. Regarding Husayn's decision to recall the Jordanian Parliament, 'Arafat wished the move "success" but also expressed hope that "this step will not have any political effect" inside the West Bank, according to a related report by Amman *AD-DUSTUR*. 'Arafat also told the paper that when he was in Lebanon he was offered "part of Lebanon to establish a state."

Tunisia

All segments of the Tunisian population took to the streets on 7 January to express appreciation for President Habib Bourguiba's "courageous decision" to revoke the price increases for bread and pasta, Tunis radio reported. Announcing his decision in an address broadcast by the radio, Bourguiba said it had been made in the face of popular unrest. He ordered the government to prepare a new budget that will not affect the poor but will increase prices of alcoholic drinks and similar items. Bourguiba said he had originally authorized a small increase in the price of bread because of reports that bread was being wasted and sold as fodder. However, the price hike was too big, he said, and in the future the government will ensure there are no "exorbitant" price rises for bread and pasta.

The president subsequently appointed Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali acting interior minister, thereby dismissing Interior Minister Driss Guiga, according to Tunis radio. Bourguiba also ordered a reduction in the curfew and the release of all detainees who did not engage in looting or sabotage, the radio noted. Meanwhile, a number of opposition parties and Labor Federation leader Habib Achour welcomed Bourguiba's decision to rescind the price increases, the radio said.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak held a lengthy meeting with Saudi Prince Talal, director of the Arab Gulf program for supporting UN development organizations and UNICEF special envoy, Cairo radio reported on 8 January. The Saudi visitor said afterward that his discussions did not deal with political issues.

In another development, Mubarak stated that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is welcome to visit Egypt, MENA noted. Mubarak was responding to the Iraqi leader's statement, broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio on 7 January, that he would like to visit Egypt to meet Mubarak if and when he is not too busy directing Iraq's war effort.

During his current visit to Paris, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali stressed that Egypt believes the Arabs have a duty to assist Iraq in the war with Iran, INA reported. Ghali also announced that Egypt would welcome PLO Chairman 'Arafat's residing in Cairo, according to MENA. Ghali held talks on 6 January with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, MENA noted, while British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived in Cairo on 8 January at the start of his Middle East tour.

Iran

Kordestan Operation — Iranian troops launched a new offensive against rebels in Kordestan, capturing over 30 villages in the border area near Baneh and penetrating 10 km inside Iraq to destroy a "counterrevolutionary" base, according to a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Iranian forces "liberated" the entire border strip in the Baneh area and killed over 230 rebels, the communique asserted.

Broadcasting Director Reinstated — The supervisory council of the "Voice and Vision" appointed Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the organization's managing director, Tehran radio reported. The decision reinstates Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the brother of the Majlis speaker, in the position from which he resigned last year.

Iraq

Iraq will choose the appropriate circumstances to exercise its "natural right" to strike at the interests of the Iranian regime "wherever they may be," President Saddam Husayn declared in a speech broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio and Baghdad television on 6 January. Any new Iranian attack on Iraqi civilian or military targets will be an additional reason for Iraq to carry out "deterrent actions" to punish the Iranian regime, he warned.

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Karmal Calls for Strengthening Armed Forces

LD082206 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, today at 1000 participated in a broad meeting of the Armed Forces leadership and the party and state organs from all over the country, convened in the Ministry of National Defense.

At this meeting, Babrak Karmal spoke comprehensively about the situation in the country, the tasks of the DRA Armed Forces in the face of the undeclared war by imperialism and reaction, and the joint efforts and strengthening of cooperation among the Armed Forces.

Correspondents of the daily *HAQIQAT-E ENQELABE SAWR* and BAKHTAR agency report that this meeting was attended by members of the Politburo, Secretariat, PDPA Central Committee; members of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium; vice chairmen and members of the DRA Council of Ministers; heads of the Supreme Court and Special Revolutionary Court; heads of zones; secretaries of provincial party committees; governors of provinces; secretaries of Kabul City party wards; first secretary of the DYOA; heads of the central departments of the Ministry of National Defense; commanders and leadership of the DRA Armed Forces; and heads of prosecution offices and courts of the Armed Forces.

The correspondents of *HAQIQAT-E ENQELABE SAWR* and BAKHTAR agency report that at the beginning of the meeting Brigadier General Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the DRA Armed Forces political affairs, on behalf of the participants of the meeting, thanked Babrak Karmal for taking part in the meeting and said that 700 members of the Armed Forces leadership, party, and state organs from all over the country attended this meeting.

After playing of the DRA national anthem, Yasin Sadeqi asked Babrak Karmal to deliver his opening speech.

In his speech, which started at 1000 and lasted 6 hours, Babrak Karmal discussed the present situation in the region and the world, which has further deteriorated as a result of the warmongering efforts of imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism and its NATO allies.

He also discussed the situation in the country, the need to further strengthen the Armed Forces, resolute defense of the revolution, tasks of the Armed Forces in final defeat of the counterrevolution, enhancing qualitatively and quantitatively the level of combat and combat capability of the Armed Forces, joint efforts among the Army, sarandoy, and KHAD, strengthening military discipline, and further strengthening unity and solidarity of the ranks of the strugglers on the path of the revolution, under the leadership of the PDPA.

The correspondents of *HAQIQAT-E ENQELABE SAWR* and BAKHTAR agency report that Karmal's speech was received with revolutionary fervor by the audience. They were chanting slogans such as "We hold dear the unity of the party as our honor and conscience and will preserve it" and "With all power, we will fight for the final defeat of the counterrevolution."

Following the speech by Babrak Karmal, Lieutenant General 'Abdol Qader, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense; Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, member of the PDPA Central Committee and minister of interior; Khodadad Basharmal, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and head of East Zone; Mahmud Bordel, secretary of Helmand Provincial Party Committee; Hajidollah, governor of Qandahar; and Najibollah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and head of the State Information Services, each spoke in turn and pledged to fight with all power to implement Karmal's instructions and guidances, to secure coordination among the Armed Forces, and to utilize all energy and power to the final and resolute defeat of the counterrevolution.

The meeting ended with a short talk by Brig Gen Yasin Sadeqi. Full details of today's session will later be brought to the attention of compatriots.

AFP Account

OW081940 Hong Kong AFP in English 1925 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 8 (AFP) — Afghan President Babrak Karmal today openly criticised "shortcomings" in the Afghan Armed Forces, including discipline problems in the Afghan Army, a radio Kabul broadcast said, monitored here.

In a speech to the country's top army commanders and senior party leaders convened to review the internal and external situation, Mr. Karmal called for a strengthening of the armed forces in the face of the "declared war by the imperialists," the radio said.

The Afghan leader chaired the six-hour meeting attended by 700 delegates in which he called for improved "coordination" between army, police and security forces, the radio said.

The meeting follows fresh draft laws promulgated by the Afghan Government on January 1 to recruit all Afghan youths aged over 18 for compulsory two-year military service.

The Afghan Army according to various sources has been plagued with desertions and defections. Diplomatic sources said the strength of the army has been reduced to less than 30,000 from the 90,000-strong army prior to the entry of Soviet troops in December 1979.

Dost Comments on Settlement Talks, Refugees

PM061520 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 4 Jan 84 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost by Giulietto Chiesa in Kabul; date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: Minister, could you bring us up to date on the negotiations with Pakistan and Iran for the solution of the Afghan problem?

Answer: We talk about the "settlement of the situation concerning Afghanistan." Some progress was made in the two rounds of talks, in April and June. The prime objective was to properly understand the two sides' positions and points of disagreement. Our request was, and remains: an end to outside interference and that we be granted international guarantees that it will not be resumed. The other issue raised by us is that of the refugees. We are asking for a realistic and true reckoning of their number and the conditions for their normal return home with all guarantees.

Question: UN mediator Cordovez and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar have issued encouraging assessments. What is yours?

Answer: There has been some progress, but I would beware of excessive optimism. The international situation is very tense. In this context, the negotiations with Pakistan are being influenced very negatively too.

Question: Has your government made any attempt to contact the rebels? Do you consider a political solution of this kind possible?

Answer: There are no contacts with them. They are scattered groups led by men well known to the Afghan people and discredited. With whom should we converse? Despite the very strong U.S. pressures, they have been unable to unite and have not gone beyond terrorist activities. However, we have not missed the opportunity to establish contacts with the forces that have the country's interests at heart. This is the aim of the creation of the National Fatherland Front.

Question: Would you care to elucidate your viewpoint on the refugee problem?

Answer: We do not know their exact number, but 700,000 seems to us a reliable assessment. There is no foundation for the figures usually cited, according to which there are over 3 million refugees in Pakistan and about a million in Iran. This inflation of the figures reflects propagandist and other motives. One cannot, for instance, include among the refugees the nomad populations that have been traveling to Pakistan every year for centuries, and who total 2 million. Then there is the artificial inflation of lists supplied to international organizations, achieved by including many Pakistani citizens among the refugees. Last, there are the obstacles that Pakistan sets in the way of those wanting to return and, furthermore, many of those who have returned still appear on the lists. Thus, the Pakistani authorities enjoy international aid not justified by the actual situation.

Question: Would you care to clarify for us which Afghan government asked the USSR to intervene militarily in Afghanistan?

Answer: We have already said this many times. The request was made by Taraki and repeated by Amin. I would like to remind you of a particular episode. At that time, I was deputy foreign minister and the French ambassador came to me to ask me why so many Soviet aircraft were landing in Kabul. I answered: "Yes, it is true, we asked them to come." That was at the beginning of December 1979, some weeks before Hafizollah Amin's expulsion.

Question: The Soviet intervention is now 4 years old. In your opinion, are there prospects of its coming to an end?

Answer: It was not an intervention. There is a limited military contingent that is helping us repel the outside threat. We have implemented a preexisting friendship treaty fully in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter, the same article that France used for intevening with its troops in Chad. The Soviet contingent is in Afghanistan temporarily and will remain there only as long as necessary.

Question: The United Nations condemned the intervention by a large majority of 160 to 20.

Answer: That is true, but I would point out to you that in the latest ballot there were more votes against the resolution of condemnation and 17 abstentions, that is, 4 more than in the previous ballot. This means that the situation is gradually becoming clearer, although the U.S. pressure on many countries is very strong.

Question: How are things with China?

Answer: At present the Chinese stance toward us is not only not friendly, but hostile.

Karachi: Mujahidin Down Helicopter in Paktia

BK090219 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say a Soviet helicopter was shot down by Afghan mujahidin in the Orgun area of Paktia in Afghanistan on the 21st of last month. The helicopter was carrying supplies for the besieged Karmal troops.

The mujahidin are also reported to have tightened their siege around the Orgun post and threatening the Soviet-backed Karmal troops there.

According to another report, seven Karmal troops with arms were arrested by mujahidin during an attack on a military post at the industrial area of Baghlan City. In the encounter, Karmal troops suffered losses in men and material.

There are also reports of indiscriminate killing of civilians by Karmal trops in Ghazni City after an abortive attack to capture a position of the mujahidin.

Ershad Accepts Finance Minister's Resignation

BK090308 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The president has accepted the resignation of the minister for finance and planning, Mr A.M.A. Muhith, to enable him to go for the teaching fellowship at the Princeton University in the United States.

A farewell reception was held in honor of Mr Muhith at Banga Bhavan last night. Speaking on the occasion, President Ershad commended the valuable services rendered by Mr Muhith as minister for finance and planning at a time when the task was really a difficult one. The president also appreciated the firmness and [word indistinct] with which Mr Muhith discharged his responsibilities since the present government took over the responsibility of running the country.

The deputy chief martial law administrators, Rear Admiral M.A. Khan and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, and members of [word indistinct] Ministry attended the farewell reception.

President's Message to Nation Urges Unity

BK071025 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, has called upon the democratic-minded political parties and other nationalist forces to shoulder the responsibility of expediting a transition toward democratic process in the country through peaceful means. In a message to the nation, the president urged them to take the vow to establish a democratic system in the country through active support and cooperation of the people. We have to keep in mind that this nation is ours — whatever the identity we have — we are one and inseparable.

President Ershad said there is no alternative to democracy (?and) that there is a need for a rock solid unity of the people and their active participation and support for creating a democratic atmosphere and establishing democratic institutions through continuation of democratic process. He said it is our pride and happiness that the elections to the local bodies have been held successfully throughout the country as the precondition for the complete process of democratic. [as heard] ?Local bodies) election will be the definite step toward the transition to democracy.

Gen Ershad said if we establish an appropriate and suitable working system and tradition through tolerance and respect for each other, then it can be helpful for the growth of the democratic system, stability, and overall development of the country. He said the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, the fruits of historic liberation war, is [as heard] our sacred property. The entire nation should be united to take this responsibility. He called upon all, irrespective of opinion, to forge national unity to consolidate the hard-earned independence and sovereignty.

Gen Ershad expressed his respect for the martyrs and great personalities who in different periods and stages inspired the people with the ideals of Bangladeshi nationalism and independence.

Ershad Invites Political Parties To Discuss Issues

BK071013 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The president is opening a discussion on important national issues at Banga Bhavan this afternoon. Invitations have already been sent to the heads and general secretaries of different political parties to take part in the discussion.

Yesterday, President Ershad had discussions with about 12 leaders of different political parties over telephone and invited them personally to join the discussions.

The issues to be discussed include process for transition to democracy, the presidential and parliamentary elections, and the demands of the political parties and alliances.

Political Ban Lifted

BK071636 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, has announced the lifting of the ban on indoor politics with immediate effect. Inaugurating a discussion on important national issues (?with) political leaders at Bangabhavan in Dhaka this afternoon, he said political dialogue will be held on schedule with different parties from tomorrow.

He also gave an assurance that he would hand over power to the elected representatives of the people [passage indistinct].

General Ershad made it unmistakably clear that he was prepared to discuss with all the parties, irrespective of the political conviction. Now that the question has arisen on the timetable for the elections, he said let us discuss and reach a consensus. President Ershad emphasized the need for evolving a system which will make sure the transfer of power will take place through a constitutional process, not through [word indistinct] or violent means. He said national interests must be held above everything. He hoped that the political parties would be united with the government and [words indistinct] the combined objective of the government and political parties would help build self-reliant Bangladesh, free of exploitation, deprivation, poverty, and illiteracy.

Leaders from over 40 political parties attended the opening of discussions today. Later, President Ershad told waiting newsmen that the discussion was a good omen and expressed the hope that sense would prevail by the grace of Allah.

Briefing the newsmen, the special assistant to the president, Mr A.R. Yusuf, said the government is optimistic about reaching a consensus on national issues through discussion.

Dialogue Detailed

BK090547 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Leaders of the Muslim League-T. Ali, and National Democratic Party held talks with the president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, at Banga Bhavan last night. The parley lasted for about two and a half hours. Retired Major Abdul Rahim, who headed the National Democratic Party, was the first to have discussions with President Ershad. The Mulsim League-T. Ali was represented by Mr T. Ali, Mr M.A. Matin, Qazi Abdul Qadir, Mr Ataul Haq, and Alhaj Jamil Ali.

Briefing newsmen after the first dialogue between Gen Ershad and the country's politicians, the special assistant to the president, Mr A.R. Yusuf, said detailed discussions on the presidential and parliamentary elections took place during the talks. He also said that it appeared from the talks that the politicians wanted the presidential and parliamentary polls to take place earlier than the [words indistinct]. Mr Yusuf said during last night's talks, President Ershad listened to the politicians with great attention.

It may be mentioned that the president initiated discussions with the country's political leaders on Saturday with an appeal to all to come forward for unitedly settling the (? existing) national issues with a view to bringing peace, prosperity, and happiness to the nation. Over 40 political parties attended [words indistinct].

AFP Reports

BK071507 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 7 (AFP) — Military ruler Hussain Mohamad Ershad today announced a partial lifting of restrictions on political activities during a short meeting on Bangladesh's political future which was boycotted by the country's two major opposition alliances.

Contrary to earlier expectations that few of the some 60 political parties invited to today's "government-opposition dialogue" were planning to attend, leaders of more than 40 political parties participated in the meeting.

Gen. Ershad told the assembled politicians, who included leaders of the 12-party National United Front led by ex-President Khondokar Mustaque Ahmed, that restrictions on "indoor politics," or political meetings, would be lifted immediately.

Opposition sources had said earlier that most of the more than 120 politicians orginally asked to attend the dialogue would not participate if the government did not meet a series of opposition demands.

The 12-party alliance was also not expected to attend following comments by a front spokesman yesterday that a dialogue with the government would not be "meaningful" without an end to restrictions on political activities.

But press reports said Gen. Ershad had made last minute phone calls to about a dozen politicians late yesterday in an effort to elicit support for his meeting, the opening of which was delayed 30 minutes as he awaited a last minute decision on whether or not to attend by National United Front leaders.

The eventual arrival of Mr. Ahmed and other front leaders at the Presidential Palace added political colour to an event attended by mostly by pro-government politicians or relatively unknown persons.

Bangladesh's two major opposition groupings, the seven-party alliance led by Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the 15-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed of Awami League, did not attend the 30-minute meeting, which was open to the press.

The two alliances had refused to meet with Gen. Ershad until he fully lifted a ban on political activities reimposed following violent anti-government protests November 28.

The opposition had also demanded early parliamentary elections and the release of political detainees as preconditions to a dialogue with the government.

An official spokesman later said Gen. Ershad would continue to meet individually with political leaders in coming days as part of the dialogue process.

He said the parties and alliances which did not attend today's meeting would be welcome anytime they decided to participate, adding that the government was optimistic that all political parties could eventually be persuaded to join the dialogue.

The general, who declared himself president last month, was flanked by cabinet ministers, advisers and other military men as he read a 10-minute prepared statement to the assembled politicians.

He welcomed the participants to the dialogue, which he said was aimed at finding a way to revive the political process through consensus. He also reiterated that his government was prepared to discuss any topic with an open mind.

Political activities were banned when Gen. Ershad proclaimed martial law in March 1982. The ban was partially lifted last April, allowing political parties to hold meetings, known as "indoor activities."

In early November, Gen. Ershad then lifted all restrictions on political activities, but reimposed the ban within a fortnight following violent anti-government protests on November 28.

In addition to the National United Front leaders, today's meeting was attended by politicians from the government-backed Janodal Party, headed by ex-president Assanuddin Chowdhury, and leaders of two factions of the Moslem League.

Ershad, Doha Receive Iranian Deputy Minister

BK071035 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The deputy foreign minister and special envoy of Iran, Mr Javad Mansuri, called on President Ershad at Sena Bhavan in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, Mr Javad Mansuri, who is leading a three-member delegation, handed over a message from Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to President Ershad.

Earlier, the Iranian delegation called on the foreign minister, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha, and discussed with him matters of mutual interest.

The Iranian delegation arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

IRNA Account

LD071231 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Dhaka, Jan. 7 IRNA — Cultural and consular deputy foreign minister Javad Mansuri met with Bangla President Gen. Ershad Friday evening and presented him a message of President 'Ali Khamene'i concerning non-participation of Islamic Republic in upcoming summit meet of Islamic Conference Organisation in Casablanca, Morocco.

During the meeting, also attended by Iranian Ambassador to Dhaka Mohammad Mehdi Akhund-Zadeh, Mansuri outlined Islamic Republic's positions concerning various issues of world of Islam, Iraqi imposed war, crisis in the Middle East, recent attacks of Zionist regime on Ba'labakk. Also issues pertaining to Palestine and Afghanistan were other subjects discussed.

Referring to the upcoming summit meet of Islamic Conference Organisation, in Morocco, Mansuri said that Iran would not accept any decision which is contrary to its interest in connection with Iraqi imposed war.

Gen. Ershad then expressed desire for expansion of two countries ties.

Envoy's Departure

BK080005 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Iranian special envoy Javad Mansuri left Dhaka for home today after a brief visit to Bangaldesh. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mansuri was seen off at the airport by the foreign minister. [as heard]

Foreign Minister Leaves for ICO Meeting

BK061727 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Foreign minister A.R. Shamsud Doha left Dhaka tonight for London on his way to Rabat to attend the preparatory meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers. The meeting will be held in the Moroccan capital from 12 to 14 January. Following the ministerial level meeting, the fourth summit conference of the 44-nation Islamic Conference Organization will be held at Casablanca from 16 January.

Vajpayee Closing Address at Party Council Cited

BK081611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The 3-day session of the National Council of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] concluded at Indore today. The council adopted political and economic resolutions besides considering problems faced by the tribal communities.

In his concluding address, the party president, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, said his party together with its alliance partner, Lok Dal, will try to consolidate all other democratic forces in the next Lok Sabha election.

Referring to the party's connection with the Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh [RSS], he said that BJP and the RSS are different and independent organizations and are not related to each other. There is no question of the BJP getting directions from the RSS, he added.

Admitting that the party's progress, though encouraging, is not satisfactory, Mr Vajpayee said that no single party can provide a viable alternative to the ruling party today.

He criticized the increase in support price of wheat announced yesterday as nominal.

Referring to the India-Pakistan relations, he said the need of the hour is that both the countries jointly face the threat being posed to this region by the superpowers.

He alleged that the Congress-I government at the center wants to crush the independence of the press.

Later addressing a news conference, Mr Vajpayee said that the Congress-S has given its cooperation to the National Democratic Alliance in Maharashtra.

Parties Call for Tripartite Meeting on Punjab

BK071515 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] In Jullundur, a joint rally was organized yesterday by four political parties to promote national integration and communal harmony in Punjab. Addressing it, leaders of the CPI, CPI-M, Congress-S, and Janata Party appealed to the union government to take the initiative in calling a tripartite meeting to find an early solution to the Punjab problem. Earlier, they submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner's office demanding, among other things, publication of a white paper on happenings in Punjab. It also demanded that managements of religious places should be told not to give shelter to criminals.

Sikh Movement To Declare 'Parallel Government'

BK070353 Hong Kong AFP in English 0156 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 7 (AFP) — Activists of the "Khalistan" (Sikh homeland) movement, living abroad, plan to declare a "parallel government" in London shortly and have also advised some important Sikh leaders back home in Punjab to act similarly, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) has reported.

PTI in a dispatch from Amritsar in the northwestern state yesterday said the secessionist Sikh plans were announced there by Balbir Singh Sandhu, general secretary of the National Council of Khalistan, one of several such extremist bodies already banned by the federal Indian Government. Mr Sandhu told reporters that Dr Jagjit Singh Chauhan, chairman of the council, virtually self-exiled abroad, had written to Sant Har chand Singh Longowal, chief of the opposition Sikh party, and some other important Sikh leaders in Punjab, urging them to "declare a complete sovereign state" of the Sikhs on January 26, the day India became a republic 34 years ago.

Gurcharan Singh Tohra, chairman of the Sikh national committee managing the community's shrines in India, and fundamentalist religious leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale also received letters from Dr Chauhan. PTI said Mr Sandhu released copies of the letter to reporters in Amritsar.

Mr Sandhu said Dr Chauhan had informed him separately that he would declare a "parallel government" after organising a "Khalistan march" outside the Indian high commission in London on January 26. Dr Chauhan also proposed to name a cabinet and burn the Indian tricolour and a copy of the Indian constitution.

There was no report of any immediate comment by Mr Longowal or the other two Punjab Sikh leaders. Mr Longowal's party has been spearheading the present Punjab movement demanding greater political autonomy for the predominantly Sikh state, bordering Pakistan, but he and his supporters have repeatedly declared that they have no such secessionist design as the Khalistan campaigners.

AFP: Opposition Leaders Appeal to Zail Singh

BK080741 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 8 Jan 84

[By Govindan Unny]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 8 (AFP) — Amid fears that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government was attempting to topple some non-Congress state administrations, opposition leaders have appealed to President Giani Zail Singh to intervene. In a memorandum submitted to Mr. Zail Singh yesterday, the opposition charged that Mrs. Gandhi's congress had started "an inspired campaign of vilification" against the non-Congress elected governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, West Begal and Andhra Pradesh. The memorandum said the sensitive border state of Jammu and Kashmir, controlled by the national conference party of chief minister Farooq Abdullah, was "bearing the brunt of such a campaign."

In Karnataka, ruled by a Janata Party government, "a deep-seated conspiracy" was afoot with the Congress using "money-power" to obtain defections and destabilise the government, it alleged.

The states of West Bengal, controlled by a left front coalition led by the Communist Marxist Party (CPI-M), and Andhra Pradesh, where movie idol turned politician N.T. Rama Rao was in control, were subjected to discriminatory treatment by the central government in political and finanicial matters, the memorandum alleged.

The opposition leaders warned that if the situation persisted it would "imperil the future of the forces of democracy." The leaders submitted the memorandum during a 30-minute meeting with the president.

Those present included former Prime Minister Charan Singh, representing the National Democratic Alliance of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Lok Dal, Samar Mukherjee of the CPI-M, Madhu Dandavate of the Janata, Indrajit Gupta of the Communist Party of India (CPI), Tridib Chaudhury of the Revolutionary Socialist Party and Saifudin Soz of the National Conference.

Mr. Rama Rao's Telegu Desam Party was not represented but he was understood to have indicated his full support for the views contained in the memorandum.

The opposition leaders were said to have asked the president to use his "good offices" to prevent the central government's "menacing threat" to the state governments.

Sources close to the opposition said the leaders had turned down a suggestion by the president that they should talk directly to Mrs. Gandhi. They had replied that they had done so both inside and outside parliament but without effect, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the BJP, one of the main opposition groups in parliament, now holding its annual session in Indore, central India, called for opposition unity in view of what it called the "attempts being made by the ruling Congress to subvert democracy and foist dynastic rule" on the country. In a political resolution adopted at the session, the party warned that if Mrs. Gandhi's government faced any real threat of ouster it would have no qualms in throwing democracy overboard and declaring emergency as it had in 1975. The party mentioned centre-state relations as the field in which "one of the worst manifestations of undemocratic intolerance of the opposition" was evident. It also said that if the country's unity was at stake due to developments in Assam, Punjab or Kashmir the blame lay squarely on the ruling congress, which, it said, took decisions purely from the point of political and electoral advantage.

AFP: Maneka Gandhi on Party Election Contest

BK081619 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 8 (AFP) — Maneka Gandhi today said her Rashtriya Sanjay Manch Party (RSM — National Sanjay Forum) would contest 200 seats in the next Indian parliamentary elections.

Mrs. Gandhi, the widowed daughter-in-law of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, told a press conference here that she would herself contest the Amethi seat in Uttar Pradesh, formerly held by her late husband Sanjay.

Amethi is at present represented by Rajiv Gandhi, the premier's elder son. He was elected in 1981 following his brother's death in an air crash.

Maneka Gandhi said her party fared well in recent by-elections for the Uttar Pradesh state legislature.

Citing voting figures, she said it had a narrow edge over her mother-in-law's Congress Party. The Manch won one seat in the by-elections.

The Lower House of Parliament has 542 seats. The next general election is scheduled for early 1985, but there is speculation that the prime minister will bring it forward.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP — Indian People's Party) led by former Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee believes Mrs. Gandhi would call for an earlier election, possibly in May, *THE TIMES OF INDIA* reported today.

Yaqub Khan Comments on Afghanistan, India

BK080415 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said Pakistan will continue the process of normalizing relations with India despite the current tension. As far as a nonaggression pact and treaty of friendship are concerned, Pakistan is always willing to discuss these issues.

The foreign minister made these observations in an interview with the editorial panel of *NAWA-E WAQT*. The foreign minister did not agree with the view of the Indian external affairs minister that a congenial atmosphere for talks on the nonaggression pact does not exist. He said the nonaggression pact is the only way to end the atmosphere of tension. However, only a nonaggression or friendship pact based on equality and not forced by one country on another can prove durable or effective.

The foreign minister said security, honor, stability, and political independence are necessary for the country. Pakistan's basic objective is to ensure peace and progress for the region. Peaceful coexistence, good neighborly relations with other nations, respect for political independence, regional security, relationshipsbased on equality and noninterference, and a desire for peaceful solutions to problems are the basic principles of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said as far as relations with India are concerned, we are pursuing an independent policy. This policy is against hegemony by one country against the other. He said there can also be a kind of hegemony when a trade agreement between two countries is beneficial to only one of them. A trade agreement should benefit both nations, and Pakistan cannot be just a market.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also replied to a number of questions on the Afganistan problem and reiterated Pakistan's stand in unequivocal terms. He said Pakistan wants a political solution to this problem. The sooner it is solved, the better. However, there is no hope for speedy progress toward a solution to this problem. We are neither very hopeful nor otherwise. He made it clear that Pakistan would not compromise on principles on the Afghan problem but would continue efforts for a just solution. The Geneva talks are a link in the chain of efforts, and these negotiations will continue.

Replying to a question on direct talks with the Karmal administration, the foreign minister said this is totally contrary to recognized international principles. The personal respresentative of the UN secretary general is expected to resume his diplomatic efforts in March for a peaceful and durable solution to the Afghanistan problem, he added.

Referring to Pakistan's relations with other nations, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Pakistan is maintaining very good relations with all countries, including the Soviet Union, United States, and China. He particularly referred to Pakistan-Soviet economic relations and said that the Soviet Union is cooperating with Pakistan in many fields. There is, however, a difference between the two countries over the Afghanistan problem. This difference is also ideological, and that is why Pakistan is seeking a solution to this problem through the aegis of the United Nations. The Soviet Union has also expressed its willingness to resolve this problem through the Geneva talks.

Party Adopts Resolution on Afghanistan

GF061326 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 31 Dec 83 p 1

[Correspondent's report]

[Text] Lahore, 30 Dec — An appeal has been made to all peace-loving nations and Muslim countries of the world by the Consultative Council of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami Party to assist Afghanistan in its efforts to regain its freedom and Islamic and nonaligned status, so that the bahavior of usurping another nation's freedom on the basis of greater strength may be eliminated. This session was chaired by the president of the party, Mian Mohammad Tufail, and a resolution was adopted on Afghanistan.

In this resolution, the Afghan people were praised for their valor and heroic and unique struggle, and it was explained therein that our Afghan brothers are fighting against Soviet naked aggression with perseverance and fortitude for their country's traditional free Islamic, nonaligned character despite inadequate resources. This has added a new chapter in the history of Islamic struggle. The Afghan mujahidin's unflinching faith in God allows them to face the latest sophisticated armaments including Soviet helicopter gunships, napalm-dropping MiG's, and heavy artillery. They have shown other smaller countries with their exemplary struggle what a smaller power can do to a superpower in order to safeguard its freedom.

The resolution adds that this session views with abhorrence and loathing the brutal cruelties inflicted on the unarmed and oppressed Afghan people by the 200,000 Soviet troops. They have destroyed villages, burned gardens and fields, and wiped out harvests, forcing millions of Afghans to take refuge in neighboring Iran and Pakistan. The atrocities perpetrated by the Soviets in Afghanistan are a living example of Soviet aggression and tyranny.

The resolution continues: This session also condemns the Soviet ambassador to Pakistan for his threats and intervention in our internal affairs and in the light of these threats, considers his proposals for greater industrial and commercial cooperation a mere fraud which is part of a scheme in which the Soviet Union tries to usurp its neighbor's freedom. Afghanistan, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia are examples of this.

Joint Communique Describes Kordestan Operation

LD061816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters communique]

[Excerpts] Your valiant and brave sons, these disciples of the school of the prophet — peace be upon him — have created yet another epic. By their glorious and enemy-crushing battle, they taught another lesson to the godless fighters and their corrupt masters. All the convulsive attempts by the enemies of the straight path and monotheism will bear no result but indignity and defeat, for elevation and dignity as well as victory and glory belong to God and the fighters following the path of God.

The ever-victorious fighters of the army of light, who continue to advance along the fronts as vast as the earth under the command of their rightful imam, having closed the border during an operation and killed the instruments of the global arrogance in Kordestan, launched a series of operations, codennamed Vahdat [Unity] in the border region of Baneh, liberated all the border strip in the area, annihilated a great many rebels and Ba'thist enemies, and achieved all their preplanned objectives.

In the course of these operations, which were carried out in three stages, beginning 29 December, in memory of the great Islamic commander, Martyr Mohammad Borujerdi, the Islamic troops — in addition to mopping up more than 30 border villages including the very important villages of Garmab, Mirvan, (Sunes), Kani Ebrahim, and Pol Hasan — succeeded in penetrating 10 km inside Iraq, destroying a main counterrevolutionary base and its essential depots, located in the strategic point of (Mosht). The glorious troops of the army of unity also managed to establish complete control over the border points of Baneh and the Sur Kuh range strategic area, thus succeeding in liberating the 35 km Baneh-Doab border road as well as the 30 kms border axis of (Belegah)-(Choman).

In support of his agents, the Zionist enemy, during the second and third stages of operations, repeatedly tried to launch air raids on our positions in the operational theater. However, without causing any casualties, the enemy planes were forced to flee by our antiaircraft fire. In these operations, which resulted in the deaths and wounding of more than 230 and the capture of 15 rebels, a number of Iraqi rebels supporting the infidel Saddam and being led by the Zionist enemy tried to support the counterrevolutionaries. However, following the heroic fighting of the Islamic troops, they fled into Iraq, leaving behind a great many dead and wounded. It should be mentioned that as a result of these latest operations in the Kordestan border regions, as well as giving more mobility to our patrol groups, the border was sealed and most routes connecting the rebels with the Ba'thists were closed. During the last 3 months, about 1,500 armed, misguided people have reported to the Islamic forces' bases and received safe conduct. The process is continuing. God bless you all.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, joint operational center for the Islamic Republic Armed Forces, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and Islamic Republic Gendarmerie.

Radio Iran Account

GF071624 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The forces of the Islamic Republic bloodied a several Kurdish villages yesterday, murdering a number of innocent people of the area. Kurdish Iranians fighting Khomeyni's regime announced that Khomeyni's guards, using both light and heavy weapons, attacked Garmabeh, Neyravan, Khani-Ebrahim, and Pirhasan villages in the Baneh area. As a result of the attacks, a large number of villagers, including children, lost their lives. The exact casualty figures resulting from this criminal act by the Khomeyni regime are still unknown.

Khomeyni Meets With Military Commanders

LD081126 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8 IRNA — Chief of the Joint Staff Gen. Qasim 'Ali Zahirnezhad and Air Force Commander Col. Hushang Seddiq were received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, this morning. In the meeting they presented reports to the imam on current situation of army.

Free Voice of Iran Report

GF081728 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The chief of the Joint Staff along with the Air Force commander met Khomeyni today. Radio Tehran did not broadcast any details of this visit, but knowledgeable sources say that Khomeyni's army chief of staff submitted a detailed report on the deficiencies and shortages in the Armed Forces, especially the excessive tiring of the forces with the continuation of the war, the interference of the guards in Armed Forces matters, particularly in those of the Air Force and army, the shortage of war equipment, and the fleeing of soldiers from the fronts.

The increasing dissatisfaction of the officers and sergeants, the execution of soldiers in Evin Prison, and the guards' arrest of Armed Forces personnel werediscussed with Khomeyni by the chief of staff and the Air Force commander.

Guards Deputy Chief on Ba'labakk Air Raid

LD071408 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7 IRNA — Deputy Commander of Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC], 'Ali Shamkhani, speaking on Iranian television Friday evening said that 25 people including an Iranian combatant were martyred in the Zionist savage bombardment of residential areas in Ba'labakk last Wednesday. He added that 150 persons were also wounded.

Shamkhani remarked that Western media in their support of Zionists announced that 200 had been martyred and 400 wounded.

Expressing his condolences to the relatives of Martyr Abbasi, the Iranian martyr, he reiterated that despite Zionists' claim, their sole objective was the bombing of the defenceless people of Ba'labakk. He said they (Zionists) intended to intimidate them in hopes of frightening them for discontinuing their support of Islamic revolutionary movement.

Shamkhani blamed silence of rulers of Muslim countries in the world as giving encouragement to Zionists for continuing their savage acts. He said that the silence of the rulers is regrettably interpreted as support for U.S. imperialism.

Replying to hostile and exaggerated reports concerning the Ba'labakk bombardment on Wednesday, Jan. 4, he said that some sixteen F-14 jet fighters of Zionists bombed the city in two stages. The second bombardment was exactly in the area where people had converged upon to remove the debris from the first bombing.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,596

LD061729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,596 issued by Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, in the operational regions of Piranshah, Sar Dasht, Hajj 'Umran, Marivan, and Panjwin, exchanges of fire continued. Execution of fire by our forces' artillery units on gathering points, infantry, tank, and artillery positions of the Saddamists halted enemy activities and killed or wounded at least 70 mercenaries. Damage sustained by the enemy on these fronts include the destruction of four trucks, one ammunition depot, and some installations and fortifications.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, our forces, while defending and guarding the positions and areas under their protection, opened fire on enemy tanks, artillery positions, and soldiers. Exchanges of fire on the Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar fronts were more intense than on other fronts and in these regions a number of Iraqi soldiers sustained casualties and were forced to flee.

On the southern fronts, as a result of our forces heavy weapons fire, our combatants yesterday halted enemy supply and engineering operations and prevented Saddamist patrol and reconnaissance activities. In the operational regions of Abadan and Khorramshahr, exchanges of fire continued and the combative units of Islam destroyed 12 enemy foxholes and trenches west of the Arvand Rud. The enemy suffered 20 casualties.

Residential areas in Abadan yesterday came under enemy long-range weapons fire; four shops and two houses sustained some damage.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,597

LD071738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,597 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The situation on the fronts of the battle fought by the defenders of the Islamic homeland against the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries hereby is brought to the attention of the dear compatriots.

Sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued yesterday between the powerful combatants of Islam and the Iraqi forces along the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, and Marivan fronts. The intensity of these exchanges on the (Koduk) and 2,519 heights was greater than on other fronts. On these fronts, the combatants of Islam kept Saddamist artillery positions and defense lines under their fire, stopped the enemy's heavy weapons fire, and kept a check on the Iraqi forces' movements and activities. On each front, enemy entrenchments and weapon emplacements were set on fire and destroyed. In Hajj 'Umran, one ammunition depot and several enemy vehicles were destroyed.

In the border region of Marivan, several heavy and light vehicles of the Saddamist forces were destroyed and considerable damage was inflicted on Ghandanfar Garrison. A number of field guns in position in this garrison, some buildings,and a generator were destroyed. In the Bani Banuk region, an enemy unit intending to carry out an offensive was fired on and destroyed. Also, 2 trucks were destroyed and 40 Saddamist mercenaries were killed and the rest forced to retreat.

In the Panjwin region, the activities and movements of two Saddamist patrol groups were foiled and dispersed. On the border fronts of Bakhtaran, Ilam, and the southern regions, sporadic exchanges of fire between our forces and that of the enemy continued; these exchanges were more intense on the Sumar fronts. On these fronts, the combatants of Islam continued to consolidate and fortify their defensive positions and took defensive measures. They returned enemy fire, opening fire on enemy positions, fortifications, and supply routes. Our forces kept a check on enemy movements and halted the construction operations of the Iraqi forces and their attempts to fortify their positions. The Iraqi forces sustained some damages and casualties. The damages sustained by the enemy on the western fronts include the destruction of a motor pool and a supply depot.

On the southern fronts, the activities of an enemy patrol group was detected and our forces artillery fire forced the enemy patrol group to retreat after suffering some casualties.

Yesterday, the city of Abadan came under fire by the criminal mercenaries of Saddam; several houses and shops were damaged.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,598

LD081727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,598 of Joint Staff Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, in the region opposite Marivan, the combatants of Islam with their heavy weapons fire prevented enemy movements and destroyed four buildings in (Biareh) Garrison, a number of light and heavy vehicles, and several mortar launcher positions and trenches. In the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, and Hajj 'Umran operational sectors, exchange of fire continued. Our forces' heavy weapons fire on enemy positions and supply roads destroyed several enemy vehicles. On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, the combatants of Islam brought enemy defensive positions and tank and artillery emplacements under fire, setting on fire parts of enemy fortifications and a number of weapons.

On the southern fronts yesterday, our forces brought enemy assembly points under fire, inflicting casualties on the Saddamists. They also prevented enemy patrol activities with their timely fire. During exchanges of fire on the Arvand Rud banks, eight slit trenches and foxholes and observation posts of the aggressor mercenaries were destroyed.

Yesterday, long-range enemy fire damaged six houses and a shop in Abadan and set fire to parts of the city.

[Signed] Joint Staff Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Cabinet Discusses Goods Distribution, Consumption

LD081328 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Cabinet met this morning, presided over by Prime Minister Musavi. The meeting first dealt with the country's current affairs and the region's political developments and then it discussed the rapid absorption of the development budget and the shortage of allocations in certain executive organizations. The Cabinet then expressed the hope that the Majlis would provide the government with necessary aid in order to speed up the promotion of urgent development projects.

Afterward, a bill on distribution of goods was debated and was subsequently approved with some amendments. Among the targets set forth in the bill is changing the pattern of consumption in the society and establishing the culture of Islamic consumption, divorced from waste and gratification. Also included in the bill are: preventing monopoly of distribution, reducing the distance between the sources of production and consumption, preventing any superfluous exchange and income without work, and controlling and stabilizing the prices of goods.

'Potential Dangers' Threatening Revolution Cited

GF070616 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0520 GMT 7 Jan 84

[From "Advice for Day" program]

[Excerpts] The latest warnings of the imam and Ayatollah Montazeri to the people and officials regarding the actual and potential dangers threatening the divine course of the revolution have alerted the people.

In Iran, there are monarchists. There are many opponents of the Islamic Republic, especially among those upper classes who want only to lead a debauched life. We have hypocrites, minority groups, parties — they are all there, plenty of them. They go about in an unobtrusive manner, meeting certain people and saying that Islam is being wiped out, said Imam Khomeyni.

Then there are those selfcentered people who are against the revolution in a haphazard manner. They are monarchists, hypocrites, agents of the defeated superpowers, spies, and all other deviants. After the defeat on the military front in Kordestan, Torkmen Sahra, and Khuzestan and in the assassinations and attempts to create an atmosphere of fear on the political front, they have been beaten back, especially with the occupation of the den of spies, the arrests of the minigroups and their exposure, and the arrests and trials of the Tudeh Party of the Soviet Union. They have now mobilized themselves on the cultural front, and they try to gain the advantage on the imam by preemptive infiltration in gatherings, meetings, and in sensitive areas so that they may weaken the system and create differences by rumormongering and dissemination of false information.

Khamene'i Friday Sermon on Islamic Summit

LD061355 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Friday imam of Tehran, in the second sermon today said: [Begin recording] Today, the Americans realize that all the curtains have been drawn open; therefore, they do not mind openly admitting that they are supporting Iraq. We said this right from the start and our people said the same thing. We all knew that Iraq's defeat would be tantamount to America's loss of interests. The statesmen of the Iraqi regime were denying this fact and the Americans did not want to declare it openly. Today, the pressure exerted by the Muslim combatants and the desperate impasse entangling the Iraqi regime have fored the Americans to confess to this fact openly. The Americans are saying: If Iraq were to be defeated, our interests would be threatened.

Well, we are aware of this. We know that Iraq's defeat is tantamount to the defeat of America's interests in the region; and it is for the same reason that we believe that this war is our war against the United States and it is also for the same reason that we are determined to be victorious in this war. [crowd shouts approval, chants "Death to the United States"]

Today, on the eve of the Islamic summit, it was necessary to expose those plots to inform the Muslims of the world. Unfortunately, this summit is held in Morocco, the U.S. den in North Africa. Therefore, we cannot take part in the summit. If the conference were to be held elsewhere— someplace not considered a U.S. den— then we would take part. We would have participated, sitting face to face and discussing our points with other Muslim leaders. But unfortunately, Morocco is not a suitable place for the Islamic Republic to attend a conference or a meeting. The Moroccans are the same people who gave sanctuary to the fugitive shah, that black-faced criminal whom the people of Iran wanted to punish. He [as heard] offered to help him to return. He later prepared himself to assist the United States in its subsequent conspiracies. Thank God, none of those conspiracies was successful; they could have not succeeded. But they [as heard] showed their wickedness and impurity.

If the Islamic summit really intends to fulfill its duties, all the participants should realize the fact that Iraq's defeat will be tantamount to America's defeat and that it is not Iraq that is fighting against us. It is the United States that is fighting against Islam and the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Some spokesmen of the Arab countries, those followers of U.S. policies in the region, have said that any threat against Iraq is a threat to the entire Arab nation. This is a lie, a big lie. The Arab nation national everywhere is against the United States, the plunderers and violators of Arab rights. Any threat against Iraq would threaten the United States and not the Arab nation. The United States and the Arab nation are precisely at loggerheads. The Arab nation is the people of Lebanon fighting so bravely against the Americans, the French, the Zionists, and their puppet Phalangists. The Arab nation is the nation of Iraq which is using every possible means to fight against the imposed regime. The Arab nation is those unhappy nations in the reactionary countries whose wealth, oil, money, and propaganda are employed to serve U.S. interests.

If the Islamic summit were to be a conference of the nations and if it were to speak for the nations, then it should condemn the United States. U.S. aggressions should be condemned. The U.S. hostility and the enmity of its allies against the Islamic Revolution should be condemned at this summit. This war should be properly analyzed at this summit. The Muslim nations of the world demand a proper assessment of this war. Why did it start? Who set this fire ablaze? Why did the Iraqi regime launch an attack on a revolutionary country without any excuse? Why did it inflict so much damage? Why did it waste so much wealth? Why did it play a role to make all the Muslim nations and governments forget the most fundamental issue of the Islamic world?

It gave an excuse to the United States and other powers to enter the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, turned the region into an ammunition dump, and robbed the region of peace and security. What was the reason behind all this?

The Islamic summit should condemn the person responsible for this huge corruption. The heads of the Islamic states who gather in Morocco should condemn the person who started this fire. Of course, the U.S. agents will try to distort the fact. But the fact is what I am saying. A germ has penetrated a healthy body and has caused an infection. An epidemic and a disaster have befallen a society and have brought unease to its members. What is the cure?

The first step is to eradicate the germ. The aggressor and the aggression should first be condemned. If the war were to end without punishing that aggressive germ, that aggressive thief, and that invading mercenary, then the dispute would not be over and the tragedy would have not been removed. The infection would be cured if we could eradicate the offending germ. They all should know, and the world should realize, that this war will not end without the destruction of the regime ruling over Iraq. [crowd shouts approval]

Of course, destruction of this regime means the overthrow of this regime and the trial of its leaders for the crimes they have committed, for emboldening Israel to attack the Islamic regions of Lebanon, for encouraging the global arrogance to increase its intervention in the region, for emboldening the political and economic circles of the exploiting world to put pressure to bear on governments of the region and for wasting billions of assets of human beings in this and that country and for making tens of thousands of innocent people roll in dust and blood. They should go on a trial.

Delegation Departs for Southeast Asia

GF061520 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] An Iranian Islamic Republic political delegation headed by Hoseyn 'Adeli, director general of the Economic Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, left Tehran today for Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and the new state of Brunei in Southeast Asia. Brother Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli is carrying special messages from Foreign Minister Brother 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the foreign ministers of the countries he intends to visit. During his tour, Brother 'Adeli will discuss the means to improve economic and political relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and these countries.

Voice, Vision Managing Director Appointed

LD071141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] In its session today, the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran unanimously appointed Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani as this organization's managing director.